



SCENARIO NOTE TO THE MINISTER

MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNOR-ELECT OF MICHIGAN

MEETING DETAILS

- **DATE/TIME:** TBD – it is recommended to schedule this call after an anticipated call with outgoing Michigan Governor Rick Snyder has taken place.
- **LOCATION:** Teleconference
- **PARTICIPANTS:**
 - Gretchen Whitmer, Governor-elect of Michigan (Biography- **Annex A**)

PURPOSE

- This introductory meeting is to congratulate Michigan's new Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer on her recent success and to discuss how you both can work in partnership to advance the Gordie Howe International Bridge (GHIB) project.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

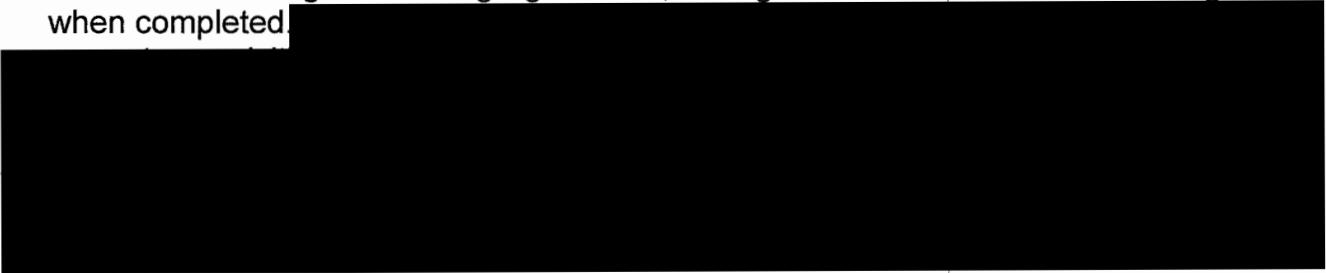
- Governor-elect Whitmer publicly expressed support for GHIB during her recent election campaign. Establishing this important relationship is essential to validate and encourage her ongoing commitment to the project.

KEY BACKGROUND

- Governor-elect Whitmer, a Democrat, was elected Governor of Michigan on November 6, succeeding Republican Governor Rick Snyder. She will assume office on January 1, 2019. Governor Snyder was not eligible to seek re-election as Governor due to term limits.
- Governor-elect Whitmer defeated Republican Bill Schuette, currently Michigan Attorney General. Mr. Schuette has been a recipient of campaign contributions from the owner of the Ambassador Bridge, a major opponent of GHIB. The election resulted in preserving a Republican majority in both houses of Michigan's legislature.
- Democrat U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow was also re-elected, and Democrats gained two additional seats in Michigan's delegation to the U.S. House.
- In addition to her stated support for GHIB, Governor-elect Whitmer made infrastructure a key plank of her election platform, including plans for the creation of a Michigan infrastructure bank, to be known as the Rebuild Michigan Bank.

WebCIMS #:

1

- While Canada is responsible for the funding and delivery of the GHIB project, as per the Canada-Michigan Crossing Agreement, Michigan will be co-owner of the bridge when completed.
- 

PROPOSED TALKING POINTS

- Congratulations on your recent election as the next Governor of Michigan.
- Governor Snyder has been a friend and strong supporter of the Gordie Howe International Bridge from its beginnings, and I hope we can continue in that same vein during your tenure.
- Completing this new crossing will be essential to Canada and Michigan's long-term economic prosperity, facilitating trade and creating thousands of jobs on both sides of the border.
- I look forward to working together to ensure the success of the project and believe it will be important for us to keep in close contact throughout construction.
- Would you be open to the idea of meeting on a regular basis to discuss project progress and other key updates?

Attachments:

Annex A – Biography of Gretchen Whitmer, Governor-elect of Michigan

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor-elect, State of Michigan



On November 6, 2018, Gretchen Whitmer (Democrat) was elected Governor of Michigan. She will assume office on January 1, 2019. Ms. Whitmer's gubernatorial campaign focused on improving conditions for the middle class through funding for public schools, skills training institutions, infrastructure, and water quality, and she promised to "fix the damn roads."

Ms. Whitmer served three terms in the state House of Representatives, from 2000 to 2006, serving for four years on the House Appropriations Committee.

In 2006, she was elected to the state Senate, where she served on the committees for Government Operations, Judiciary, Health Policy, Agriculture, Legislative Council and the Senate Fiscal Agency Board of Governors. As Senate Democratic Leader she negotiated with Republicans to expand health coverage to more than 680,000 Michiganders through Healthy Michigan. She negotiated a raise in the minimum wage.

In 2016, Whitmer was selected Ingham County Prosecutor after the elected prosecutor was forced to resign following a scandal.

Whitmer received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Michigan State University in 1993 and a Juris Doctorate from Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University in 1998. She is a member of the Ingham County Bar Association and the State Bar of Michigan.